



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING July 8, 2014 Minutes

Members Present:

Howard Pizzo, Karen Mojica and Dennis Fedewa

Staff Members Present:

Richard Watkins, Jen Roberts and Mark Graham

Guests Present:

Gloria Kovnot

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 2:43 p.m.

2. Public Comment:

Gloria Kovnot stated that she was here to ask the Committee a few questions with regard to transportation in the area for the Townships 50+ community.

3. Set/Adjust Agenda:

Dennis Fedewa made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Karen Mojica supported this motion. Motion carried.

4. Set/Adjust April 30, 2014 Minutes:

Dennis Fedewa made a motion to approve the April 30, 2014 minutes as presented. Karen Mojica supported this motion. Motion carried.

5. CATA Discussion:

Richard reported that over the past couple years he has been working with CATA to improve transportation, providing details of what has transpired over the years, and provided information which included the following:

- JARC (Job Access and Reverse Commute) Funding, a grant program CATA has available
 - ✚ He has asked CATA if they could use JARC funding to put together an agreement with Delta Township to improve our transit over and above what CATA is providing us.
 - ✚ Funding would be over a three year period.
 - ✚ We could do some additional transit in Delta Township to show people what we can do, and come back in a couple years and look at a millage to extend that type of service.
 - ✚ The JARC funding includes a match, to maximize the JARC funding it would be about \$30,000/year for the Township and we could put together a program.

✚ He asked CATA to provide us with several alternative proposals, which include Ready Rides (call up service) every day and SPECTRAN (handicapped service).

A discussion ensued, after Richard shared with the Committee copies of CATA's alternative proposals, which included routes, times, extended hours, number of buses per day, additional services, possible adjustments, fares, fixed route service versus ready ride service, coordination and efficiency of service, Township budget, costs and benefits to Delta Township.

Richard asked if there was any interest of the Committee to take the proposals to the Board and ask them what they think. Stating it would cost the Township approximately \$30,000 and would give residents a taste of what they could have for the next three years.

Howard indicated that we would have data to support or drop the program after three years.

Richard suggested he attend the EATRAN meeting being held on July 9th to discuss what the Committee is considering, which is to increase transit opportunities for Delta Township, and ask EATRAN if they want to join with us by extending route 3 to coincide with this proposal.

Karen asked how quickly this could be implemented if approved by the Board.

Richard stated that the program could begin this fall (by school opening), and that he feels we should get moving on it.

Dennis stated that we need to be nimble and see what the demand and the ridership will be, so there may be some mid court adjustments.

Richard agreed that we need to be flexible, if we see some things that aren't working we need to adjust. CATA has been very cooperative.

Karen indicated that she feels this would provide a good foundation for the next three years.

Richard asked again if we could take this proposal to the Board on Monday.

All agreed that Richard should attend the EATRAN meeting, then take the proposal to the Township Board on Monday, July 14th.

Gloria Kovnot asked where Route 3 stops, and if it will stop at the Sparrow Professional building.

Richard replied that riders could get there, but not directly.

Gloria stated that this will not fly.

A discussion among the committee followed Gloria's comment, which included the availability to the elderly that is not presently available. Also discussed, was the future of the region and making people aware of the benefits of having this program available.

Richard excused himself from the meeting upon completion of this discussion as he had a prior commitment.

6. Tri-County Regional Planning Committee Long Range Transportation Plan Update:

Howard provided an overview to the Committee of the Tri-County Regional Planning Committee Long Range Plan, which is a five year plan. In this plan major projects are identified that go through 2035. He then asked Mark to inform the Committee exactly what Tri-County is expecting from the Township.

Mark stated the following:

- The Long Range Transportation Plan is a 25 year plan, which currently goes through 2035.
- Tri-County will be updating this plan through 2040.
- Most of the plans are for improvement projects, with a couple of new construction projects.
- One project is the bridge over the Grand River at Nixon Road. The other project is the construction of the East-West Collector Road from Elmwood to Canal, which would be in the corridor now occupied by the East-West Pathway.
- Staff has suggested that the East-West Collector Road be eliminated.
- Resurfacing projects are not in the Long Range plan.
- The Comprehensive Plan recommends (not in the Long Range plan) the extension of Broadbent Road, a half mile south to Mt. Hope Highway. This is a very controversial project, as many residents in the area have expressed opposition to this project.
- The Nixon Road extension is in the plan, but it is not programmed for construction until 2034.
- In 2034, officials will have to make a difficult decision as to whether the Nixon Road Extension is constructed.
- This is your window to review future road projects and offer your input.
- There are no controversial items in the plan for the next 5-10 years.

Howard stated that the Nixon Road extension needs to be discussed. He also added that this project is not consistent with our urban service boundary. The Grand River is as far as we plan to go with regard to utilities. If we were to extend Nixon Road, we are not only opening up our land, but we are opening up Watertown and Oneida Township areas for further development, which we will be footing the bill. They will benefit at our cost, allowing these areas further development, taking away from our area, which may leave large blocks of Delta Township undeveloped. One of the counters to that would be, if we give up this money someone else will take it, if we don't have something to replace it with.

Dennis stated that the Nixon Road Bridge project is not scheduled to happen until 2034, and we will be reviewing the long range plan every five years, which will give us five different opportunities to review and update the plan.

A discussion on the pros and cons for the bridge over the Grand River, along with a time frame for implementation and changes to the plan occurred. All agreed that the committee should put together a list of pros and cons for this project, and discuss them with the Township Board at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Dennis then asked what everyone thought about the Broadbent extension project.

Mark suggested that we treat the Broadbent Road project just like the Nixon Road bridge project, by identifying the pros and cons and taking them to the Township Board. Inform the Board that it is in the Comprehensive Plan, they haven't discussed the project in the past, it wouldn't happen until 20-25 years down the road, but that we think it should be discussed. A discussion on the properties in the area of the Broadbent extension and possible concerns followed Marks remarks.

Mark reiterated the fact that the general consensus of the committee is to report back to Matt Hannahs, take out the East-West Collector Road project, make a report to the Board of what we decided to do regarding deletion of the Collector Road project, and that we would like to have a Committee of the Whole discussion in the near future on the Nixon Road Bridge and the Broadbent Extension. Staff will prepare pros and cons reports for both of these projects as a part of that discussion.

A discussion on how quickly this could be presented to the Board, along with how to present the information and how to notify the public ensued. Upon completion of this discussion it was decided that Mark and Howard would meet to discuss details of what and how to notify the public.

7. New Business:

Next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2014 at 4 p.m.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.